

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATORS GRAY-JACKSON, Costello, Begich, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Olson, Wielechowski, Wilson,
von Imhof, Micciche, Stedman, Hoffman, Stevens, Hughes, Birch, Shower, Coghill, Giessel**

REPRESENTATIVES Spohnholz, Rauscher, Tuck

Introduced: 4/5/19

Referred: Taken Up

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural,
4 and economic backgrounds and occurs through acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual
5 assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, prostitution, and
6 pornography; and

7 **WHEREAS** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
8 security, and humanity and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars that can influence
9 every aspect of an individual's life; and

10 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated 33
11 out of every 100 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime; and

12 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey reflect alcohol- or
13 drug-involved sexual violence dropped from 26.8 percent in the 2010 survey to 22.6 percent;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, despite tremendous progress, Alaska still has the highest rates of sexual
16 violence in the nation; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 2,126 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the
2 state for possible sexual abuse; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 1,625 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at rape
4 crisis centers in the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
6 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to reduce and
7 eliminate sexual violence; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 16 communities--Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova,
9 Dillingham, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Juneau, Kodiak, Kotzebue,
10 Nome, Palmer, Seward, Unalaska, and Valdez--have sexual assault response teams to
11 investigate more effectively crimes of sexual violence; and

12 **WHEREAS** research indicates the need to develop comprehensive sexual violence
13 prevention programs that target multiple, interacting risk and protective factors in
14 behaviorally relevant ways; and

15 **WHEREAS** communities across the state are taking up the challenge, implementing
16 evidence-based prevention programs, such as Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys into Men, and
17 Green Dot Alaska; and

18 **WHEREAS**, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot, by
19 itself, eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the
20 entire population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault; and

21 **WHEREAS** schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy
22 relationships curriculum in grades seven through nine, which has been shown to reduce
23 adherence to rape myths and to enhance social and emotional learning focusing on self-
24 management and responsible decision-making; and

25 **WHEREAS** positive healthy male role models are engaging boys through programs
26 such as COMPASS to explore and adopt concepts of masculinity that include respect for
27 women and nonviolent models of manhood; and

28 **WHEREAS** victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this
29 effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; in 2016, over 3,100 volunteers devoted
30 48,483 hours of service in the state;

31 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of

- 1 April 2019 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the residents of the
- 2 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by taking action to prevent sexual violence.